CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

I have the honour and duty to inform you that on 4 February 1993 the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus ratified the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 31 July 1991 and the Protocol thereto signed in Lisbon on 25 May 1992 as well as took a decision on the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear State.

The aforesaid decisions have been adopted as an expression of the consistent course of the Republic of Belarus towards achieving the status of a non-nuclear and neutral State. It is the first time in the history of the international community that a sovereign State has voluntarily renounced the possibility of actual possession of nuclear arms. Having taken this unprecedented step, the Republic of Belarus expects that the world community would support its course of peace and its desire to make a meaningful contribution to strengthening European and global security.

Among all the countries legal successors to the former USSR as regards the START Treaty, Belarus is the first and only one to have declared its readiness to implement in full its obligations under the Lisbon Protocol. The fact that Belarus has ratified the above-mentioned Treaties without any conditions or reservations has once again demonstrated the consistent and constructive nature of its foreign policy.

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The voting in the Supreme Soviet of Belarus proves that the course at achieving the status of a neutral and non-nuclear State is supported by parliamentarians representing all political factions. The resolution on the ratification of the Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol thereto was adopted all but unanimously, with just one deputy voting against.

The Republic of Belarus expects that its attitude towards nuclear disarmament issues would be duly appreciated by the international community, and it has every right to count on all-round financial assistance in dealing with the entire range of questions pertaining to the practical realization of the obligations assumed under the aforesaid Treaties as well as in effecting the conversion of military industries and modernization of technologies.

I would request you to make necessary arrangements to have the text of this note issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all States members of the Conference as well as States participating in but non-members of the Conference.

(Signed) A. Mardovitch
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Belarus